



THE COUNCIL OF  
INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

# AMERICAN GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS 2008–2009



A CIC initiative since 2006 to promote and support doctoral study in the humanities by accomplished graduates of small and mid-sized private liberal arts colleges

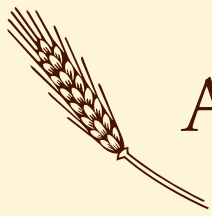
Up to \$50,000, renewable for a second academic year in these fields:

History  
Philosophy  
Literature and languages  
Fine arts

*Application Forms Available*  
April 15, 2008

*Application Receipt Deadline*  
October 15, 2008

*For More Information*  
[www.cic.edu/projects\\_services/grants/americangrad.asp](http://www.cic.edu/projects_services/grants/americangrad.asp)



# AMERICAN GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

## *Background*

Today, as in the past, the best graduates of small liberal arts colleges possess the education and ability to excel in the doctoral programs that train tomorrow's leading scholars.

A generation ago, these institutions prepared a disproportionate share of the country's professional scholars and scientists. Recent evidence suggests, however, that new funding and recruitment patterns in graduate education have acted to reduce the diversity of entering doctoral cohorts—at least when it comes to the graduates of smaller baccalaureate institutions that may lack national reputations. Graduate students in the humanities are increasingly drawn from a small group of elite research institutions, “flagship” state universities, and highly selective, generously endowed “research colleges.”

The American Graduate Fellowships are intended to:

- directly support the advanced education of a few stellar graduates of small colleges;
- encourage the best students at small colleges to apply for graduate work in the humanities at top-tier private research institutions; and
- signal to the leading graduate programs that small colleges remain a rich source of talented doctoral students.

## *About the American Graduate Fellowships*

*Who can apply:* American Graduate Fellowships must be graduating seniors or recent graduates of an eligible undergraduate institution. (“Recent graduates” must have received their bachelor's degrees no earlier than December 1, 2006. This requirement will be extended for applicants who have served in the U.S. armed forces for as many as three years of continuous active duty.) Eligible undergraduate institutions include all private colleges and universities in the following Carnegie Classifications (2000): BA-Liberal Arts, BA-General, MA-I, and MA-II. Colleges and universities that enroll fewer than 3,000 undergraduates will be given preference in the selection process. Applicants must intend to enter a doctoral program in one of the eligible fields of study during the subsequent academic year. All applicants must be citizens of the United States. CIC will not discriminate on the basis of sex, age, race, color, ethnicity, creed, physical disability, sexual orientation, or national origin in the selection of American Graduate Fellows.

*Eligible fields of study:* The eligible fields of graduate study are history, philosophy, literature and languages (including classics but excluding linguistics), and fine arts (excluding archaeology and the performing or studio arts). Interdisciplinary graduate programs that incorporate one or more of these fields—such as American studies or the history of science—may also be eligible, although students should check with CIC before submitting a fellowship application. Fellowship recipients must enroll as candidates for the PhD or DPhil or enter into graduate programs where the doctorate is the expected terminal degree.

*Eligible graduate institutions:* American Graduate Fellowships may only be used to support doctoral study at one of the 23 institutions listed on the right, which represent many of the finest independent research universities in the English-speaking world.

*Awards:* Up to \$50,000 for each American Graduate Fellow during his or her initial year of graduate study, including tuition, fees, and a stipend for living expenses and research costs. Fellows attending universities in Great Britain or Ireland may also apply a portion of their awards to international travel. All awards will be paid directly to the graduate institutions, with the exception of travel support for students attending foreign universities. Fellowships will normally be renewable for a second academic year (in the same field of study at the same institution), on the condition of satisfactory performance during the first year. CIC will make two awards in February 2009 for graduate enrollments beginning in fall 2009.

*Selection process:* Applications will be reviewed by an expert panel of distinguished humanities scholars from the eligible fields of study. This panel will recommend the top candidates. Finalists will be selected by mid-January 2009. CIC will notify graduate programs with pending applications from these students immediately. CIC will also notify the graduate deans at the other eligible research universities, commending the finalists and explaining the high degree of selectivity for the American Graduate Fellowships. Fellowship winners and other finalists will be publicly recognized in spring 2009.

### *Application Information*

Application forms for the 2008–2009 competition will be available from the American Graduate Fellowships website starting **April 15, 2008**. The deadline for receiving completed applications is **October 15, 2008**.

Complete applications will include:

- An application form with biographical and contact information
- A brief statement (500-1,000 words) about the applicant's plans for graduate study, including the proposed program(s) and institution(s) at which the fellowship would be used
- An original essay of no more than 1,250 words on a set topic designed to demonstrate the applicant's aptitude for scholarly work at the graduate level
- A list of the graduate programs to which the applicant has applied (or intends to apply)
- GRE scores
- College transcript(s)
- Letters of support from two faculty members in the proposed field of graduate study
- A recommendation from the chief academic officer (or other academic dean) at the applicant's current undergraduate institution, addressing his or her intellectual growth and achievements while in college. Applications that lack a recommendation from a senior academic administrator will not be considered. Institutions may endorse more than one applicant.

American Graduate Fellowships support doctoral study at any of these institutions:

#### *In the United States:*

Brown University  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Duke University  
Emory University  
Georgetown University  
Harvard University  
Johns Hopkins University  
New York University  
Northwestern University  
Princeton University  
Rice University  
Stanford University  
University of Chicago  
University of Pennsylvania  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Yale University

#### *In Great Britain and Ireland:*

University of Cambridge  
University of Oxford  
King's College London  
University College London  
University of Edinburgh  
Trinity College Dublin

Fellowships can be used for doctoral study in these fields:

History  
Philosophy  
Literature and languages  
Fine arts

*In 1980, 28.2 percent of new PhD recipients in the humanities were alumni of independent American colleges and universities that emphasize baccalaureate and master's level education. In 2003, only 22.9 percent of new PhD recipients were graduates of such institutions.*

—CIC analysis of the Survey of Earned Doctorates (2006)

*The American Graduate Fellowships are “timely and necessary, clearly filling a much needed gap” in the support for graduate study.*

—Dr. Jayashree Shivamoggi, director of external scholarship advising,  
Rollins College

*CIC is helping research universities “pay particular attention to the graduates of small liberal arts colleges.”*

—Dean Catharine Stimpson, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences,  
New York University

*“I think that your program is a wonderful one, regardless of whether I end up being the [direct] beneficiary.”*

—A 2006 fellowship candidate

## *For More Information*

American Graduate Fellowships  
Council of Independent Colleges  
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Washington, DC 20036-1142  
(202) 466-7230, ext. 221  
[americangrad@cic.nche.edu](mailto:americangrad@cic.nche.edu)  
[www.cic.edu/projects\\_services/grants/americangrad.asp](http://www.cic.edu/projects_services/grants/americangrad.asp)

## *About the Council of Independent Colleges*

Founded in 1956, the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) is the national service organization for independent colleges and universities. CIC works to:

- support college and university leadership;
- advance institutional excellence; and
- enhance private higher education's contributions to society.

CIC membership includes more than 570 institutions. CIC is not a lobbying organization, but rather focuses on providing services to campus leaders and a range of programs that assist institutions in improving their educational offerings, administrative and financial performance, and institutional visibility.

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THE COUNCIL OF  
INDEPENDENT COLLEGES



For today. For tomorrow. Forever.